

## Welfare Board Partially Lifts Ban on Press

Members Agree to Two-Part Sessions, One to Be Secret

The District Board of Public Welfare yesterday decided to open to the press at least a portion of its heretofore closed-door monthly meetings.

Members came to this agreement after an extended and earnest discussion with four reporters, who came to attend yesterday's regular session, but wound up engaged in a post-meeting press conference instead.

The reporters had understood individually from Board Chairman Edgar Morris that they would be permitted to attend this meeting—or those parts of it that did not deal with matters deemed by law to be confidential.

The press corps checked in promptly at 2:15 p.m., as requested. This was the time the confidential portion of the meeting was expected to be ended.

But 45 minutes elapsed before Chairman Morris invited the reporters into the meeting room. When every one had got settled, his first question was: "What do you want to ask us?"

The meeting, it developed, had already ended.

When this met with protest, Mr. Morris expressed surprise. He remarked that the meetings have "always been open to the press." He stood by this statement, moreover, although it was pointed out that, over the months, reporters have invariably been instructed to wait outside, to be briefed on the meetings after they had concluded.

Other welfare officials yesterday said it had always been their understanding that board policy decreed closed meetings.

Invitations Suggested.

Mrs. Theodore Wedel, board member, finally broke the impasse by suggesting that the press be provided with agendas and invited to attend future sessions. The agendas will be divided into two sections, consisting of subjects which will be discussed in the presence of the press and those which will be kept confidential.

The latter category will concern such matters as adoption, hospital care and similar cases in which the names of the needy are mentioned in board discussions, the board agreed.

Any discussions involving use of aid recipients' names must be closed, it was explained, under the Social Security Act, which requires such secrecy on pain of the Federal Government's withdrawal of its share of aid payments to the District.

It is this provision, as it affects public assistance, which the Jenner amendment virtually invalidated last year by giving States the right to decide whether to keep their relief rolls secret or open to the public without jeopardizing receipt of Federal payments.

Secrecy Issue Pending.

The relief roll secrecy issue in the District is still before a Senate District Subcommittee studying proposed new public assistance legislation for this city.

It was chiefly because of the secrecy controversy that the press wanted to attend yesterday's meeting, Mr. Morris announced that, while that subject was not discussed, the board still favors keeping its records secret.

Fred S. Kogod, vice chairman, declared there is no need for opening relief rolls to public view. "We don't embarrass funds," he said. "We feel we're doing a pretty good job. We're not perfect, but we think we're 99 per cent perfect."

Mrs. Wedel said the proposed non-secrecy amendment to the pending legislation would, if adopted, put the board "in an awfully difficult spot."

"We would rather have Congress spell out the circumstances under which the board, as administering agency, could open the rolls," she added.

Grants Up Little in Decade. In a report to the board, which was released after the meeting, Welfare Director Gerard M. Shea pointed out that a comparison of public assistance grants for January, 1952 and 1942, showed an increase of only 1 per cent. The comparative numbers of grants are 7,008 for January, 1952, and 6,942 in January, 1942.

Old-age assistance for the same two months declined 22 per cent, from 3,589 to 2,783. Aid-to-the-blind grants increased 2 per cent, while all other grants, including aid to dependent children, and aid to the disabled, went up 64 per cent.

Mr. Shea's figures further showed that, although the child population in the District increased 27 per cent in the last decade, family assistance cases, which include aid to dependent children, increased only 7 per cent.

In the old-age assistance category, the 22 per cent decline in the number of grants was reflected, despite a 38 per cent increase in the city's aged population.

Bolling Field Airman Killed by Car on Route 1

DORSEY, Md., Mar. 1.—A 30-year-old Air Force private was fatally injured today when an automobile struck him as he pushed his car on Route 1 near here, about 5 miles south of Baltimore.

Maryland State police identified him as Pfc. Herbert L. Neal of the Air Force's Bolling Field at Washington. They said he died in St. Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, about six hours after the accident.



WINTER'S ARTISTRY—This is what the March lion brought to Washington while most of the city was asleep this morning. This weather portrait was taken on the Capitol grounds. Wet snow, driven by the wind, stuck to the trees.



Early pedestrians slosh through snow churned to slush by automobiles at Fourteenth and F streets N.W. Washington's official snow measurement was 1 inch, but nearby Virginia and Maryland reported up to 3 inches. (Story on Page A-1.)

## Old Gordon Hotel Sold To Christian Science Church for \$450,000

The Gordon Hotel, 916 Sixteenth street N.W., one of the landmarks of Washington, has been purchased by the Christian Science Church.

The seven-story brick structure across from the Hotel Carlton, which has been owned by S. D. Ferguson of Roanoke, Va., since 1937, brought about \$450,000.

James Watt, manager of the Washington office of the Christian Science Committee of Publication, confirmed reports of the sale yesterday afternoon. He emphasized that the purchase had been made by the Mother Church, First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston.

Mr. Watt said, "plans have not been formulated for the eventual development of the property."

Owns Adjoining Corner. The church already owns the adjoining northwest corner of Sixteenth and I streets, where the offices of the Committee on Publication are located in an old residence.

The Hotel Gordon property is an L-shaped tract with a frontage of 76 feet on Sixteenth street, runs 106 feet back to an alley and has a 30-foot frontage on I street. The total ground space is 11,600 feet.

The adjoining corner property, which was purchased more than two years ago for \$207,000, has a 58-foot frontage on Sixteenth and almost 100 feet on I street. Put together the church now owns 17,500 square feet in the center of the city two blocks from the White House.

Plans Not Revealed. While representatives of the church have given no hint of the intended use of the property, it was conjectured that the space will be used for a monumental structure, giving the church special prominence in the Nation's Capital.

James L. Dixon of the James L. Dixon & Co. handled the negotiations for the purchase of the property. Weinberg & Bush represented the seller.

The Gordon was built in 1889, during the Benjamin Harrison administration, when the blocks north of the White House contained the city's finest mansions and many of the embassies and

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legations. Henry Adams and John Hay lived on the same side of the street in the block below, where the Hay-Adams Hotel stands.

Once Best Hotel Here. When it was opened, it was considered the best hotel in Washington—an establishment of Victorian elegance. It was first called the Hotel Arno. It entertained many of the Capital's distinguished visitors in the last years of the century.

In recent years, it has housed many elderly persons.

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Police said the youths, Dick Martin of 605 Dale drive and William A. McCollum of 417 Windsor street, were reported missing from their homes since 7 o'clock last night.

Police said young McCollum left his home about 6:45 p.m. to go to a show with Martin. They added, however, he left a note for his mother, Mrs. Marie McCollum, but did not disclose its contents.

Still missing, according to police reports, were Beverly Ann Day, 16, of 4509 Layhill road, Silver Spring; Barbara Ellen Grinnell, 15, of 34 Strathmore avenue, Garrett Park; and John E. Dunn, 16, of 12610 Holdridge road, Silver Spring.

Police said the families of the two girls believe they are together. They have been missing since Tuesday. Young Dunn last was seen Wednesday in the Silver Spring shopping area.

Ex-General Motors Man Resigns OPS Ops Post

By the Associated Press  
W. Le Roy Jordan of Rochester, N. Y., a former General Motors executive, resigned yesterday as chief of the automobile branch of the Office of Price Stabilization.

## D. C. Zoning Board Approves Parking at Temple Heights Tract

The District Board of Zoning Adjustment yesterday permitted reopening of the Temple Heights tract at Connecticut and Florida avenues for use as a 200-car parking lot.

The decision was one of four parking lot grants made by the board after a day-long hearing of nearly 80 zoning cases last Thursday.

The Temple Heights tract has been rezoned twice for parking, but each time the parking venture fell through, due to lack of customers.

Sign Permitted. In its decision yesterday, the zoning board permitted the present operators of the property, the Ambassador, Inc., and H Street Building Corp. to erect a sign 34 feet in dimension to attract customers.

Erection of a sign as requested in an application last year was refused by the board. The present zoning status will apply one year.

3 Others Approved. In other parking lot cases the board acted favorably on applications for a 50-car lot at 509-513 Twenty-first street N.W., a 10-car lot at 1231-1233 Twenty-first street N.W., and a 10-car lot at Twenty-fifth and F streets N.W.

The Board deferred action on two similar applications for 10 and 20 car lots in the 500 block of Twenty-fourth street N.W., and rejected, after citizens' protests, an application for a 40-car lot at 1813 F street N.W. and a 110-car lot in the vicinity of Twenty-fifth street and Snow court N.W.

Surplus Dried Eggs Offered to Needy Abroad

By the Associated Press  
The Agriculture Department yesterday offered to give away 3.5 million pounds of surplus dried eggs for distribution among needy persons abroad.

The eggs will be given to eligible private welfare organizations which agree to pay shipping and handling costs.

The eggs are part of remaining stocks of about 9.5 million pounds bought under a producer egg price support program in 1950 at about \$1 a pound.

## Committees Kill Hope of Virginia Redistricting

Two Assembly Groups Act to Reject Bid for Reapportionment

By Alex R. Preston  
Star Staff Correspondent

RICHMOND, Mar. 1.—House and Senate committees today killed northern Virginia's chances of obtaining more representation in the General Assembly.

The Privileges and Elections Committee of the State Senate today reported two bills which make virtually no changes in the apportionment of State legislative districts.

Shortly thereafter the corresponding committee of the House voted, 4-6, to kill two bills carrying out a study commission's recommendations.

Only Two State Senators. At present, Arlington has one State Senator and Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church and Prince William have one. The commission plan called for Arlington to have one Senator, Alexandria to have one and Fairfax and Falls Church, one and two to Fairfax.

Arlington now has two delegates, Alexandria has one, and there is one for Fairfax and Falls Church. The study commission plan would have given three delegates to Arlington and Falls Church, two to Alexandria and two to Fairfax.

Davis Plea Fruitless. Before the House committee acted, Delegate Delamater Davis, of Norfolk, delivered a strong plea for the commission plan.

"Since we had our last reapportionment in 1942," he said, "there has been a tremendous shift in population. It has been clearly shown to this committee that some delegates represent 14,000 people while others represent more than 100,000."

"If that is representative government, then we might as well give up and admit we don't live in a democracy."

Except for two or three minor changes in the present legislative apportionment, the bills approved by the Senate Committee would leave existing House and Senate districts untouched.

Strong Appeals Heard.

Delegates Armstrong Booth of Alexandria and J. Maynard Magruder of Arlington appeared before the House committee yesterday and made strong appeals for action. Mr. Booth warned that the outcome of this year's senatorial campaign and next year's race for Governor might be affected by what action is taken to give the more populous areas added representation in the Assembly.

"I say very bluntly and frankly, as an organization man who comes from an area where it is not always easy to carry the organization torch, it will help us in my area to report the commission's bill," the Alexandria delegate declared.

"It is conceivable that our failure to act may make the difference in winning or losing the senatorial and gubernatorial contests in 1952 and 1953."

Bills Quickly Killed. In an effort to clear its docket, the committee killed about a dozen bills in little more than five minutes. Two of the bills were sponsored by Delegate Edwin Lynch of Fairfax.

One Lynch bill would have permitted the holding of presidential preferential primaries, which would not have been binding, but would have determined sentiment.

The other would have prohibited any managerial district in a county from being more than twice as large as the smallest district. A court-appointed commission now is studying redistricting in Fairfax County managerial districts, and Mr. Lynch sought to limit the population disparity between them. The committee killed the bill because, one member said, it might affect pending litigation in the Fairfax County Circuit Court.

Baby Is Delivered By Rookie Policeman

A rookie Arlington policeman, already a veteran in delivering babies, officiated at the birth of the daughter of an Air Force sergeant and his wife this morning.

The mother, Mrs. Joan E. Rolf, 20, of 2502 South Court street, and her baby were reported good well late this morning at Fort Belvoir Hospital.

A neighbor, Mrs. Gladys Briscoe, of 2504 South Court street said the husband called police when the ambulance failed to arrive. She praised Police Officers Leonard Burnett and Walter Kauffman for their prompt response to the call.

Mr. Burnett, who previously had delivered two babies when he was a pharmacist's mate in the Navy, came in when everybody was "pretty scared," Mrs. Briscoe said, but he reassured everybody and attended the mother until the infant was born, about 5:30 this morning.

Mrs. Rolf's husband is Sgt. Elmo A. Rolf, stationed at National Airport. They have one other child, a 16-month-old daughter named Deborah.

Lawmaker Asks Ousting Of Russia From U. N.

By the Associated Press  
Representative Armstrong, Republican, of Missouri, introduced legislation yesterday calling for Soviet Russia's expulsion from the United Nations unless its rulers terminate "sponsorship" of the Korean conflict.

Mr. Armstrong also called on Congress to brand Russia as an aggressor against international order and peace.

## Arrested Credit Union Employee Had Passed Up \$40,000 Haul

A former Washington credit union teller charged with embezzling \$14,400, carried \$40,000 in cash from a bank to the union, this shortly before leaving here, the FBI disclosed today.

The man, Robert Frederick Mall, 25, of Clay Center, Kans., who formerly lived in the 1700 block of M street N.W., is held in Schenectady, N. Y., charged with embezzlement from the credit union organized by State Department employees. He was not a State Department employee.

He was placed under \$10,000 bond and returned to the Schenectady County jail today. The Associated Press said it had not been decided whether he would be returned to Washington for trial.

His arrest came yesterday when he attempted to cash a check drawn on a Kansas City bank that had stopped payment on his checks.

The FBI said that shortly before leaving here, he carried \$40,000 in cash from a Washington bank and turned it over to the credit union, with which he is charged occurred between November 18 and 30, 1951. The FBI said Mall left Washington suddenly January 3, saying he intended to visit his sick mother.

Retail Price of Food Declines to Lowest Average Since August

Washington retail food prices have reached their lowest average since last August, the Labor Department says.

The retail food index here dropped 2.4 per cent in the month ended February 15, the Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. But it still is 10 1/2 per cent above the average of June 15, 1950, before the outbreak of the Korean war.

Eggs Head Decline. Eggs and fresh fruit prices led the decline in the January-February period, dropping 11 per cent. Pork, lamb and beef prices dropped from 1 to 6 per cent, and tomatoes and lettuce prices led a fruit-and-vegetable average decline amounting to 7 per cent.

The prices of canned and dried items rose slightly, however, to offset the declines somewhat. And the price of frying chickens increased 5 per cent.

Egg prices reached their lowest point in eight months, registering a total decline of 33 per cent from a record high last November.

Fish, poultry and meat prices generally dropped an average of not quite 1 per cent.

The local retail index on February 15 stood at 232.2, the same as that a year ago, the bureau reported.

Washington A. & P. stores yesterday announced a 5-cent-a-pound reduction in the price of butter. The price was dropped 3 cents yesterday and another 2 cents today.

Thomas E. Kelly, district sales manager, quoted the new price as 91 cents a pound when wrapped in quarter-pound sticks, and 89 cents in pound blocks. Wholesale costs have dropped, he explained.

3 Youths Plead Guilty In Bethesda Burglaries

By the Associated Press  
BALTIMORE, Mar. 1.—Three teen-age boys from Chevy Chase, Md., pleaded guilty yesterday in Federal Court on charges growing out of two burglaries of the Bethesda selective service office.

Two of them were given prison terms and the third was placed on probation.

Roger H. Young, 18, of the first block of West Kirke street, whose father is with the diplomatic service in Chile, was sentenced to two years in prison. William Connor, 17, of the 6800 block of Georgia street, whose father is a retired colonel, was given a term of a year and a day.

John M. Conner, 17, of the 200 block of Spring street, son of an investment real estate man in Washington, was put on probation for two years.

Young and William Connor admitted they stole some blank draft cards and three typewriters from the office. John Conner denied any part in the burglaries, but said he was given one of the draft cards.

Prosecutor Frederick J. Green, Jr., said William Connor is wanted by Montgomery County police on a charge of burglarizing a neighbor's home of about \$500 worth of camera equipment.

Mr. Green said Young faced charges of stealing \$130 from a Washington rug cleaning plant. He said Young returned the money after his father found out about the theft.

Auto Show Ends Today; 125,000 Record Seen

The Auto Show winds up its run in the Armory today, with new attendance records claimed by its promoters.

By closing time tonight, 125,000 persons are expected to have seen the show.

THIS SUNDAY'S BEST READING

The Sunday Star

THE FLUORIDATION DEBATE—Every one agrees that fluoride compounds in water will in some subtle way make children's teeth more resistant to decay. But are the hidden disadvantages that would make fluoridation undesirable? That is the gist of a debate of interest to all Washingtonians—a debate that is examined in the Editorial Section's front-page leader.

AS GOES MAINE—The magnifying glass is put to one of the most treasured Republican political maxims in an Editorial Section article by William Hiner. Does the Nation usually go as Maine goes—or is your own home State a better political barometer? A map accompanying the story will give you the answer.

AMERICA'S FIRST MOSQUE—The mosque's call to prayer soon will be heard along Massachusetts avenue N.W. when the Nation's first authentic mosque is opened for Mohammedan religious services. Christie G. Thompson, who visited the mosque recently, reports on it in The Star Pictorial Magazine.

HAVE YOU A LITTLE GENIUS IN YOUR HOME?—If not, and you'd like to make a super-Quiz Kid out of your young hopeful, apply the Sidis method. Dr. Sarah Sidis says an average mind can be turned into a brilliant one. In an article by Howard Van Smith in This Week Magazine, the secret is let out of the bag.

BIG MAN FROM THE SOUTH—Senator Richard Russell of Georgia has announced for the Democratic presidential nomination. His decision this week may have far-reaching effects in November. Gould Lincoln examines the man and the issues in an article in the Editorial Section.

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## Bill for \$300 Teacher Raise Up to Senate

Maryland House Approves Measure; Veto Is Expected

By J. B. Zetman  
Star Staff Correspondent

ANNAPOLIS, Mar. 1.—A bill calling for a \$300-a-year increase in the State teacher salary scale today needed only the Senate's agreement before being sent to the Governor.

The House passed the measure last night by an 80-23 vote, after a series of involved parliamentary maneuvers, during which legislative experts were called to the Speaker's rostrum to explain just what the bill meant.

To listen to the explanations the House recessed and then went into session as a committee of the whole—the first time such action has been taken in the General Assembly in nearly 25 years.

Before taking final action the delegates adopted an amendment chopping \$100 off the \$400 figure contained in the bill when it passed the Senate on Thursday.

To Cost \$5 Million. They also inserted a clause to raise teachers' automatic annual increases from \$100 a year for 16 years to \$150 a year for 12 years. A separate bill with identical provisions was passed by the House and sent to the Governor two days ago.

Under last night's measure, which would cost the State nearly \$5 million annually, the Governor would be required to provide the necessary funds in his budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1953. This budget will be sent down when the Legislature meets next January for 90 days.

A gubernatorial veto is believed almost certain, however, because of Gov. McKeldin's repeated statements that he believes teacher salaries are a local responsibility.

Earlier this session, his veto of a \$300 annual teacher pay raise bill passed last year was sustained. That measure would have been financed by a 1-cent jump in the corporation tax. But last night's bill calls out for the State's general funds.

Another Bill Killed.

During the day, the House Education Committee killed another teacher pay raise bill, sponsored by Delegate Robert A. Wallace, Republican, of Montgomery County. Mr. Wallace also proposed a \$300 increase but wanted to finance it by raising the minimum county tax for schools from 65 to 80 cents.

In an attempt to forestall the committee's unfavorable action, the Montgomery delegate submitted an amendment to increase the minimum county school levy by only 10 cents. But this, too, was turned down.

## Two-Month Hearing On Gas Rates Ends

The District Public Utilities Commission yesterday concluded its extensive hearing of the Washington Gas Light Co. appeal for increased revenues totalling \$2.3 million annually.

The two-month hearing has accumulated a volume of testimony not heretofore surpassed by previous gas-rate hearings. One reason was an amendment by the United States Court of Appeals that the PUC at its 1949 gas-rate hearing failed to obtain sufficient evidence to cover all the issues.

The appellate court overturned the PUC grant of a rate increase to the company that year, and consumers subsequently got a refund of their higher rates. This time both the PUC and the gas company took pains to try to get every possible detail into the record.

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The commission details a 7 per cent rate of return, which would be 1 per cent higher than the present allowable rate set by the commission in 1944. During the hearing a commission official recommended a 6.85 rate.

\$50,000 Awarded in Death Of Foreman Hit by Truck

A District Court jury has awarded a woman \$50,000 for the death of her husband, who was fatally injured in December, 1948, when struck by a truck.

The verdict in favor of Mrs. Hilda A. Manuel, 58, of 2205 Decker avenue, Silver Spring, was returned late yesterday.

Her husband, Fred L. Manuel, 61, was killed by the truck while working as superintendent of a building project in the 200 block of Dale drive, Silver Spring.

The verdict was against the owner of the truck, John W. Glen, whose business address is 4214 Hunt place N.E.

Mrs. Manuel was represented by Attorneys Joseph D. Bulman and Joseph S. Cullins, Jr. Judge Edward M. Curran presided at the trial.

2 Judges, Already Serving, Sworn In for Full Terms

Two judges, already serving on the local bench, have been sworn in for full 10-year terms.

One is Judge Thomas E. Quinn of the Municipal Court of Appeals, to whom the oath was administered yesterday by District Judge Matthew F. McCulley. The other is Judge John J. Malloy of Municipal Court to whom the oath was administered by District Judge Edward M. Curran.

Audience Remains Calm

About 800 patrons of Keith's Theater, 619 Fifteenth street N.W., remained calm at 9 p.m., last night when a false alarm drew apparatus and police.